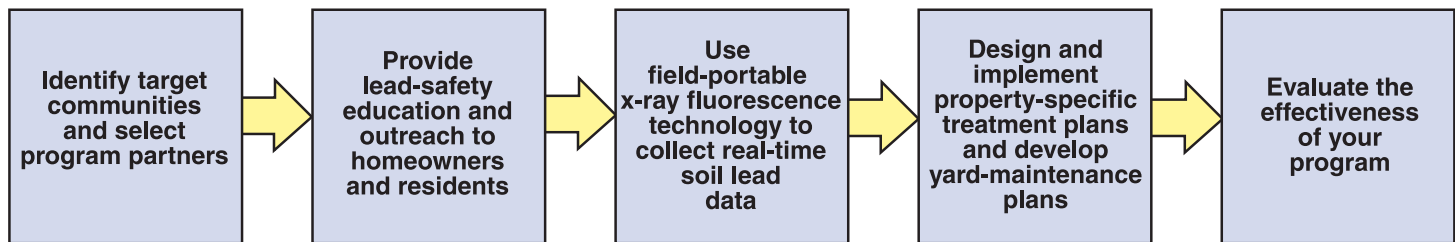


2 HOW TO USE THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook provides information your community can use to create and implement a lead-safe yard program. It presents detailed guidance, based on the experience of the EMPACT Lead-Safe Yard Project, on how to:



The handbook provides simple “how to” instructions on each facet of planning and implementing a lead-safe yard program, along with important background information on lead poisoning and the hazards of lead-contaminated soil:

- **Chapter 3** discusses why lead in general, and lead-contaminated soil in particular, is a health hazard; what data are available on lead in soil; and what standards and regulations may apply to your program.
- **Chapter 4** describes the steps in beginning a program: identifying potential target communities, getting to know the community, and selecting partners for the program.
- **Chapter 5** provides guidance on education and outreach to homeowners and residents about the problem of lead in soil and the benefits of participating in a lead-safe yard program.
- **Chapter 6** provides detailed information about data collection and management, focusing on the use of the field-portable x-ray fluorescence instrument to collect real-time data.
- **Chapter 7** describes soil mitigation strategies and techniques, including sample specifications, costs, and legal issues.
- **Chapter 8** discusses how to develop and implement a maintenance plan for lead-safe yards, including homeowner education and strategies for ensuring ongoing maintenance.
- **Chapter 9** provides guidance for evaluating the program, stressing the importance of documentation.
- **Chapter 10** outlines the application of lead-safe yard monitoring and mitigation techniques to non-residential settings, such as tot lots, community gardens, and abandoned commercial buildings.

Interspersed throughout the handbook are success stories and lessons learned in the course of the EMPACT LSYP. The handbook also refers you to supplementary sources of information, such as Web sites, guidance documents, and other written materials. In addition, the handbook includes three appendices that present alternatives to the approaches used by the EMPACT LSYP:

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- **Appendix A** describes the Safer Soil Pilot Program of Cambridge, Massachusetts, which has used landscaping and other remedial measures to treat residential yards since 1997.
 - **Appendix B** proposes four models for less-resource-intensive approaches to implementing lead-safe yard programs.
 - **Appendix C** discusses a new option, phytoremediation, being explored to address lead in soil in a cost-effective manner.

Finally, Appendix D presents the EMPACT LSYD Quality Assurance Project Plan.

The handbook is designed for managers and decision-makers who may be considering whether to implement a lead-safe yard program in their communities, as well as for organizers who are actually implementing lead intervention programs. Decision-makers likely will find Chapters 3, 4, 9, and 10 most helpful. The other chapters provide detailed “how to” information and are written primarily for people who will carry out the program. Individual homeowners interested in finding low-cost ways to help prevent children’s exposure to lead in soil will find Chapters 7 and 8 most useful.